

# **April 15 , 2005 - Superintendent Blank Gains National Recognition**

By Java Ahmed  
317.232.5780

## **Superintendent Blank to Receive an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree**



Superintendent Dana Blank

Indianapolis, IN - Dana Blank, superintendent of the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP), will receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree on May 7, 2005 during the University of Indianapolis' undergraduate commencement ceremony. She has gained national attention for the prison's innovative health, education and counseling programs for incarcerated women and their families.

The 100th annual undergraduate commencement at the University of Indianapolis will honor the progressive Ms. Blank of the Indiana Women's Prison and a prominent diplomat and writer from India, among other notables.

"I am proud of Dana and the outstanding work she has done in Corrections. She has explored and implemented progressive programs for those in her custody. Her commitment and energy are relentless and I applaud her for her efforts and her excellence. Dana has been instrumental in the success of the Indiana Women's Prison and I am honored that she is going to be the recipient of an honorary doctorate of humanities degree," said J. David Donahue, Commissioner of Department of Correction.

Dana is a strong believer in prison programs that protect female offenders and their families. An

example of Dana's innovative program to foster relationships is, the Family Preservation Program, which was named by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care as its Program of the Year in 2003. The program is a vast network of multidisciplinary services, both in the prison and outside, geared toward developing healthy relationships between families. One component allows children to visit their mothers in prison.

Congratulations and keep up the outstanding work, Dana!

Ms. Blanks Awards include:

2002 Indiana Correctional Association

- *Distinguished Service Award*

2003 National Commission on Correctional Health Care

- *Program of the Year Award*
- *Indiana Women's Prison Family Preservation Program*

2003 Speaking of Women's Health

- *Woman of the Year Award*